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SEP 28 2000

By: Keri J. Kuhlmann
Keri J. Kuhlmann

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Dear Sir:

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not

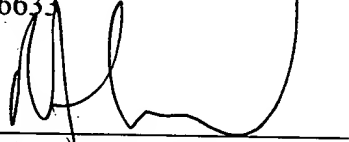
represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Respectfully submitted,

Crawford PLLC
1270 Northland Drive
Suite 390
St. Paul, MN 55120
651/686-6633

Dated: 2/18, 2000

By: 
Robert J. Crawford
Reg. No. 32,122